

Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee

March 17, 2009

City Hall, Bertha Knight Landes Room
600 4th Ave, Seattle, WA 98124

MEETING SUMMARY

Prepared by Triangle Associates, Inc.

ATTENDANCE

✓ In attendance, □ Not in attendance, X Excused absence

| Neighborhood Planning Advisory Committee Members | | | |
|--|-----------|---|----------------|
| Last | First | Affiliation/Neighborhood | In Attendance? |
| Ali | Abdirazak | At Large/Queen Anne, Magnolia | □ |
| Ashkenazy | Boaz | At Large/Wedgewood | ✓ |
| Bailey | Adrienne | Central Area District Council/Central Area | ✓ |
| Balahadia | Aileen | At Large/Beacon Hill | □ |
| Brower | Josh | Seattle Planning Commission/Beacon Hill | ✓ |
| Coney | John | Magnolia-Queen Anne District Council/Queen Anne, Magnolia | ✓ |
| Coxley | Christie | Southeast District Council/Rainier Beach | ✓ |
| Dalila | Mayet | Northeast District Council | □ |
| Edwards | Judith | Greater Duwamish District Council/North Beacon Hill | ✓ |
| Hale | Jeannie | Northeast District Council | ✓ |
| Hemminger | Dawn | Ballard District Council | ✓ |
| Hill | Eddie | At Large/Southeast | ✓ |
| Im | Thomas | At Large/Downtown | ✓ |
| Knapton | Kay | Seattle Planning Commission | ✓ |
| Madsen | Joel | At Large/Eastlake | ✓ |
| Martin | Kate | Northwest District Council/Greenwood | ✓ |
| Meeks | Sharonn | Southwest District Council/West Seattle | ✓ |
| Oien | Heidi | At Large/Capitol Hill | X |
| Ramirez | Maria | Delridge District Council/Delridge | ✓ |
| Saxman | Dennis | East District Council/Capitol Hill | ✓ |
| Stanford | Catherine | Downtown District Council | ✓ |
| Staton | Renee | North District Council/Pinehurst | ✓ |
| Thaler | Toby | Lake Union District Council/Fremont | ✓ |
| Wall | Irene | City Neighborhood Council Neighborhood Planning Committee/Phinney Ridge | ✓ |

| Alternates | | | |
|------------|--------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Last | First | Alternate for | In Attendance? |
| Barker | Cindi | Irene Wall | ✓ |
| Benjamin | Craig | Dawn Hemminger | ✓ |
| Counts | George | John Coney | ✓ |
| Hinrix | Robert | Judith Edwards | □ |
| Lee | Mona | Christie Coxley | □ |
| Leighton | Amalia | Josh Brower and Kay Knapton | □ |
| McAftertey | Blayne | Kate Martin | □ |
| Miller | David | Renee Staton | □ |
| Murakami | Pat | Adrienne Bailey | □ |
| Ramey | Brian | Toby Thaler | ✓ |
| Stineback | Kate | City Council At Large Appointees | ✓ |
| Wainwright | Mark | Sharon Meeks | □ |

| Project Team/Other City of Seattle | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--|----------------|
| Last | First | Organization | In Attendance? |
| Archie | Kimberlee | Department of Neighborhoods | □ |
| Bicknell | Lyle | Department of Planning and Development | ✓ |

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|----------|---------|--|--------------------------|
| Gastil | Raymond | Department of Planning and Development | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Goldberg | David | Department of Planning and Development | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kern | Michael | Triangle Associates | ✓ |
| Murdock | Vanessa | Department of Planning and Development | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nolte | Dan | Councilmember Clark's Office | ✓ |
| Stern | Renee | Triangle Associates | ✓ |
| Tenna | Sebhat | Department of Neighborhoods | ✓ |

| Public | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Last | First | Organization | In Attendance? |
| Boddie | Ronald | Central Neighborhood District Council | ✓ |
| Joncas | Kate | Downtown Seattle Association | ✓ |
| Merrill | Fredrika | Beacon Hill Neighborhood | ✓ |

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Co-Chairs opened the meeting, welcomed the Neighborhood Plan Advisory Committee (Committee), led a round of introductions and thanked members who were able to participate in the March 7 community outreach workshop the City hosted in the MLK @ Holly Street (Othello) neighborhood. The facilitator reviewed the agenda and meeting materials. The Committee reviewed and approved the summary from its February 17 meeting.

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING/NPAC SCHEDULES

DPD presented a draft work schedule outlining the City's anticipated timeline and major activities for neighborhood plan status reports and neighborhood plan updates through 2010 (see document available from the Committee's website). DPD stated that the timeline is ambitious and recognized that some Committee members feel the City is moving too fast. DPD stated that, based on the Outreach Subcommittee's draft recommendations and the full Committee's discussion in February, the City-wide sector open houses that the Committee will be co-hosting with the Seattle Planning Commission (originally scheduled for March and April) will be pushed back to June and July. This will allow for more time to prepare for these events and engage the public.

DPD said that one key milestone is in September, when the next three neighborhood to receive plan updates will be selected. This selection will be based on assessment and analysis from status reports, and on advice from the Committee. . It was pointed out that the schedule shows this decision in November and DPD staff agreed to check that discrepancy. The Committee is also charged with recommending criteria by which neighborhoods should be prioritized for plan updates after 2011.

Committee members discussed the proposed schedule. It was pointed out that extending the dates of the open houses provides the Committee with more time to develop recommendations on those open houses. The Committee's Co-Chair suggested that the Committee provide a letter of advice on status report content and format no later than May and suggested establishing a subcommittee to draft such a letter, based on the Committee's discussion of the topic in February.

Committee members asked DPD to clarify the goals for the neighborhood plan update process. DPD stated that City Council Resolution 31085 and Ordinance 122799 (available from the website) serve as a guide and outline major goals of the project, which includes sustainability, transit-oriented development and race/social justice. DPD/DON hope to build an inclusive process that incorporates the views of underrepresented groups and recognizes the challenges of sustainability. DPD also hopes to build robust, transit-friendly, walkable neighborhood centers. The Co-Chair added that the goals for neighborhood planning also reside with each neighborhood

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that is going through the plan update process; neither the City nor NPAC will establish goals specific to those neighborhoods. Those goals need to come from the neighborhoods.

REPORT FROM COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE

The Community Outreach Subcommittee presented its revised draft recommendations (available from the website), highlighting the importance to the Subcommittee of its first recommendation, which involves amending DPD's proposed timeline by six months to allow more time for community outreach. The Subcommittee would like this additional time to allow full inclusion of NPAC and community members in the early status report open houses and to foster fuller grassroots participation in the entire process. The Subcommittee believes that the timeline issue is most important for the Committee to consider.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Committee discussed the community outreach recommendations drafted by the Outreach Subcommittee. It was noted that DON is employing a "trusted advocate" strategy by recruiting planning outreach liaisons (POLs) to reach out to underrepresented groups in their communities, attend meetings of various neighborhood groups, and bring the resulting feedback to the City. A list of POLs was provided to the Committee (available from the website).

Committee members who were able to attend provided feedback on the March 17 MLK @ Holly Street community workshop. Observations from NPAC members present at the event were summarized by a member of the Outreach Subcommittee and emailed to the full Committee (available from the website). The City provided to the Committee the neighborhood baseline report provided at this community workshop, as well as a draft mock-up of the status reports it will be doing for other neighborhoods (both documents are available from the website).

One Committee member expressed concern that several City departments (such as Parks and Recreation, and the Office of Economic Development) were not present at the workshop. He also recommended that the City consider hiring an outside contractor with expertise in urban planning to comprehensively examine the neighborhood planning process and look for gaps and opportunities. Committee members stressed the importance of inclusivity and suggested that developers and other members of the private sector be more involved in the process.

The Committee discussed the timeline for neighborhood plan update public outreach, including the recommendation that the City's timeline be delayed six months to allow more time for outreach. Committee members expressed differing views on whether or not to recommend extending the schedule. Several members stated that under the current schedule, the Southeast neighborhoods receiving plan updates in 2009 will not have adequate time for sufficient public outreach, and thus won't have adequate community validation of the plans. Committee members expressed disagreement regarding development pressures in the Southeast area. Some feel that development is moving rapidly, while others feel that development has slowed due to the economy. It was noted that the City Council has the authority to stop development that it doesn't approve of. Other members stated that it is important to continue on the current schedule, given that funding for neighborhood planning is available now. Some members are concerned that extending the schedule would delay, or possibly interfere altogether with, the opportunity for neighborhoods that are eager for plan updates to have their chance.

The Co-Chair stated that if NPAC decides to recommend altering the schedule, it will become a decision for the City Council and the Executive. A member of the Outreach Subcommittee said that the six-month extension recommended by the Subcommittee was intended as a starting point

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for discussion and encouraged others to respond with ideas and suggestions. The Committee agreed that the Outreach Subcommittee, the Co-Chairs and any other interested Committee members should sit down with the City prior to the March 25 briefing on neighborhood planning for the City Council's Planning, Land Use and Neighborhoods Committee to discuss and refine this recommendation. It was also suggested that NPAC members consult with community members regarding the possible extension of the timeline, and report back to the full Committee.

The Committee briefly discussed DON's community outreach contact list. Committee members expressed frustration at having not yet received a copy of this list. One Committee member suggested that each NPAC member should take an active role in improving the list, reviewing it to ensure the proper groups and individuals for their neighborhoods are included. DON stated that they will share the list with NPAC members so that it can be updated.

CITY RESPONSE TO DISCUSSION ON COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Committee asked the City to respond to the Committee's discussion on community outreach. DPD agreed with the suggestion to sit down prior to March 25 to discuss the Subcommittee's recommendation. DON pointed to a list of neighborhood planning outreach activities completed to date (available from the website). DON stated that the City recognizes the limitations of traditional public meetings for reaching underrepresented populations and is focused on the POL model to obtain significant public input from those populations. POLs are holding meetings in their communities, in their language and helping citizens organize their ideas. These POLs then relay feedback and information to the City. DON stated that the City hopes that communities can come together and provide input to the City using this model. DON also recognizes that the Southeast area is one of the most diverse regions in the nation and is focused on ensuring that outreach is conducted recognizing this diversity.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of Morgan Junction Community Association stated that she attended the March 17 workshop and would like to know how many hours of effort were put in to reaching out to the public in advance. She asked how the City obtains information from the POLs and requested that the City post that information on its website for NPAC to review.

A member of the Ballard District Council thanked the Outreach Subcommittee for compiling feedback on the March 17 workshop. He asked the Committee to carefully consider what could be accomplished if the schedule is delayed, and reflect on whether a delay will actually result in a better outcome.

A recognized leader in the North Beacon Hill Neighborhood outlined many concerns the community has with the neighborhood plan update process. She stated that the time frame is too short and the scope too narrow to allow for tailoring to specific neighborhoods. She feels there is a lack of adequate review and funding. She said the outreach is not inclusive and it feels that the City is experimenting with the process on the initial three neighborhoods. She is also concerned that three areas in the Southeast receiving plan updates in 2009 will not receive full status reports, and there will be no updates to the approval and adoption matrices. She stated that she will be making a recommendation to the North Beacon Hill Council to decline from the neighborhood planning update process. She also stated that station area planning is different from neighborhood planning, and is concerned that the City doesn't recognize this difference.

NEXT STEPS/FINAL THOUGHTS

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Committee members discussed next steps and agenda topics for the April meeting. Committee members requested further discussion of the outreach schedule and status reports recommendations. In addition, the Committee discussed the use of subcommittees to address important NPAC tasks such as status report content and format recommendations, status report open houses, neighborhood plan update validation options, prioritization criteria for updates after 2011, neighborhood plan update content/elements, and community town hall meetings to be held in May.

The Committee debated forming a Steering Committee. Some members stated that a Steering Committee could help keep control of the process more effectively. One member proposed that Steering Committee brown bag lunch meetings be held downtown on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month to discuss issues and make progress on tasks. Another member opposed this idea, stating that NPAC does not need an executive Committee. Several other members expressed their support or opposition to forming a Steering Committee and/or holding informal brown bag meetings. The issue was tabled and will be revisited at a later date.

The Committee confirmed that its meetings will take place on the third Tuesday of each month through December 2009. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 21, 2009 in the Bertha Landes Room at City Hall. The Co-Chair thanked the members for their participation and adjourned the meeting.